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THE A. K. WILSON FAMILY

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THE A. K. WILSON FAMILY

Abraham Key Wilson and Mary Jane Wilson,

their descendants and their ancestors

Prepared by

Maud Wilson

1961

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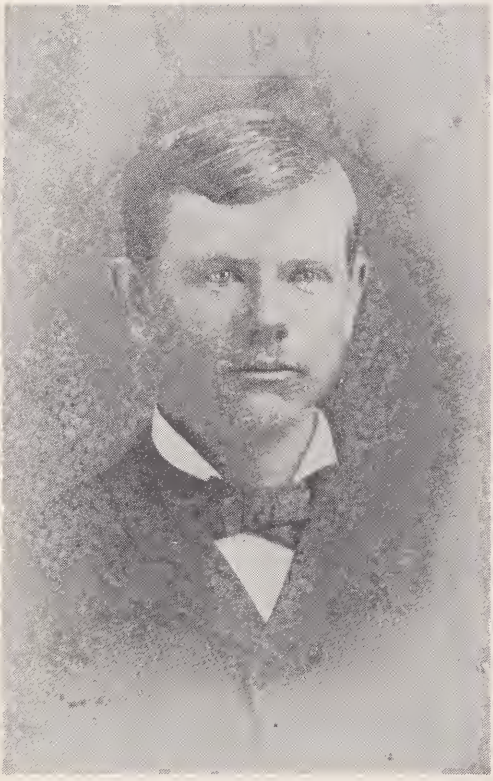

Abraham Key Wilson and Mary Jane Mathes, in 1880.

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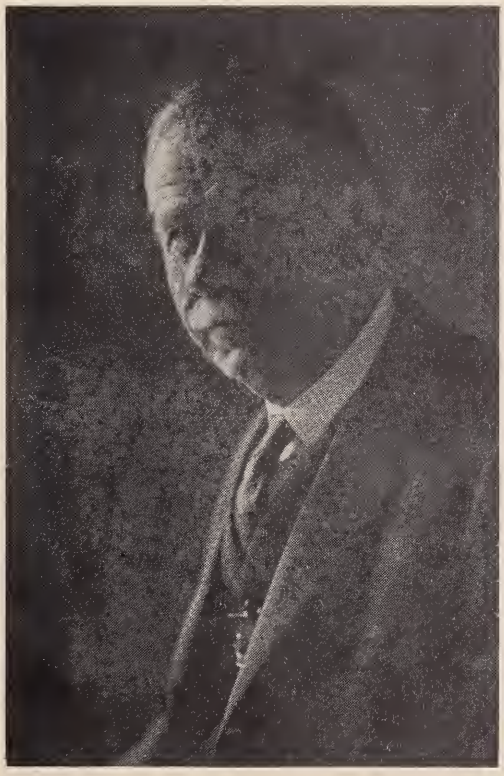

A. K. Wilson and his wife Mary Jane, as they appeared in their sixties.

The A. K. Wilson Family

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Foreword

This is the story of my parents, Abraham Key Wilson and Mary Jane Mathes Wilson, and their ancestors and descendants. It was written as a memorial to them and published during the centennial anniversary year of their births. It is based on recollections of my father written in 1909 and in 1925-1926, recollections of my sisters and myself, information obtained by my father in his genealogical research, data supplied by descendants concerning themselves and their families, and results of my attempts of the last five years to verify and supplement this information.

The development of a system of Family Charts has provided a convenient and permanent scheme for recording data from these various sources. All available data concerning our parents, their descendants and their ancestors have been recorded on these charts. Some work has been done in transferring data from old letters and other sources that pertain to lateral lines, in attempting to clarify

relationships with some individuals whom we have known vaguely as "kin."

Blanks used for the family charts were obtained from the Portland (Oregon) Genealogical Forum. This organization (of which I am a member) has been a fruitful source of help, through its beginners' classes, monthly publication, exhibits, special lectures, useful forms and careful attention to individual requests for help. I take this means of expressing my appreciation for the painstaking work this volunteer organization is doing to further genealogical research.

Chapter One

Early Life and Parentage

Abraham Key Wilson was born on February 5, 1861, in Buckhorn Tp., Brown Co., Ill., the second child and first son of Wm. Legrand Wilson and Ann Eliza Wheelock Wilson. He was one of seven children, five of whom grew to maturity. His father was a farmer and logger. The family moved frequently but usually lived in hilly, wooded country in the vicinity of the paternal grandparents' home on McGee's Creek. Father's maternal grandparents and numerous aunts and uncles also lived in the area.

Family life was unstable. His parents were separated again and again. Even when they had a home together they were often very poor. Grandmother's health was poor, but she did what she could to earn food and clothing for her brood when their father failed them. When he was eleven years old, Father began to work for farmers in the neighborhood, earning his board and

keep as well as a little money. Father wrote in his Memoirs, "The sad part of such a life, for children, is separation. I would be nearly frantic to see the other children and my mother. After days, weeks, and months, I would begin to get over it. Then we would all get together again, only to have the misery all over again." (at the next separation.)

Father attended school from the time he was six years old, usually the fall and winter terms in one-room country schools. He had learned to read and write before starting to school. He always liked study, learned fast, worked hard, cared very little for play of any kind. At times he had no books of his own, and studied whatever books he could borrow from other pupils. When he had no books to study, he learned by listening to the other pupils recite. He wrote in his Memoirs, "In a contest I would be the first pupil chosen for a spelling match, the last one chosen for a ball game."

Father started his teaching career in the spring of 1880, at the Dale School in Brown County. The next winter he taught the Union School in Adams Co., and in 1881-1882, again at the Dale. He attended the Camp Point Normal during the summer of 1880. Otherwise he continued to work as a farm hand except when teaching.

Mary Jane Mathes was born on July 11, 1861, in Russell Co., Ky., to William (?) Mathes and Susan Odle Mathes. Her father did not return to his family after the War between the States. Her mother made a living for her two children as best she could, working in farm homes, cooking for sawmill hands, etc., in Russell and Cumberland counties. Mother seldom spoke of her early life but apparently she had a happy childhood, was well-treated and well brought up in the pioneer tradition. She had little schooling; her memories were of the homes where she lived, the woods where she played, the wild plants garnered for their medicinal values.

In 1874 her mother took her two children to Pittsfield, Ill., where she had a sister, a journey thirteen-year-old Mary was to recall with pleasure throughout her lifetime. They started from Burkesville, Ky., walked a day or two, then bought transportation to Alton, Ill. There they remained for a month or so, earned steamboat fare for the trip up the Mississippi to Louisiana, Mo. From Louisiana they walked to Pittsfield, about 30 miles, arrived on Thanksgiving Day.

Mary soon got a place to stay. Her mother married John Nash in 1875 and the following year bore a son, John.

There is no record of Mother's attending school after she reached Illinois, nor is there any record of where she lived until the spring of 1881. She met her husband-to-be at a rural home near Pittsfield where both of them were employed.

Chapter Two

Sixty Years of Married Life

Abraham Key Wilson and Mary Jane Mathes were married July 13, 1882, at her mother's home in Pittsfield, Pike Co., Ill. During the first six years of their married life, Father taught in eight country schools in Pike and Brown counties--The Sapp School on Sni Island, (opposite Louisiana, Mo.); Little York, (near Pittsfield); Owl's Nest and Lawson, (near Baylis); White Oak and Brower, (in Brown Co.); Gardner and Woodland, (near Fish-hook). Fall and winter terms were four, five, or six months; spring term, two months.

During these years, home for them was a rented house located as near as possible to Father's school. On Sni Island it was a small one-room log house set on posts three or four feet high, which they had to vacate on demand, to permit the owner to move in when rising flood waters required his family to leave their farm-house. The next home was the "Conkrite Place"

in Newburg Tp. where on July 6, 1883, daughter Maud was born. In October, 1883, they moved into the village of Baylis and in July, 1884, into a farm-house in Perry Tp. Daughter Olive was born in this house on June 6, 1885. By September, they were located in a log house in the Brower School District, where they lived for two years. In 1887 they moved to the "Rust Place" near Fish-hook, where daughter Myrtle was born on October 30, and in 1888 to a house in the village of Fishhook.

My earliest memories are of our family life in the last two homes. Furnishings were simple--beds, straight chairs, kitchen table, wood box, heater, cook stove, a "safe" for dishes, utensils, and staple foods, a flour barrel, and a trunk where extra clothes were kept.

On moving day Father would borrow a team and wagon and transport the household goods, clean up the new place, set up the stoves and in cool weather get fires going, before Mother and

the children came. He might have to replace broken window panes or badly worn thresholds, fix doors and windows so they would operate, nail pieces of metal over holes in the floors. All this he enjoyed, I think, and to the end of his life continued to make the most of possibilities in fixing up a house.

Father supplemented his scanty earnings as a teacher by working on farms in summer and where possible by raising vegetables for home use. He kept the wood box and water bucket filled, did errands, bought the food supplies and shoes for the children. He studied for the teachers' examinations and perfected his understanding of the subjects he taught in his schools. For diversion he played a fiddle--schottisches, hornpipes, polkas, hoedowns. His fiddle was his comforter almost to the end of his days.

In April, 1889, household goods were sold and the family moved to Nebraska. Father decided to make this move at a time when his future

looked bright. He had found Woodland (a large school where he taught in 1888-1889) the most interesting school he had taught to that date. During this year he had been town clerk and was urged to run for another term. Father wrote in 1925 in his Memoirs, "I will never know, of course, whether this move was for better or for worse. I had much better success in Illinois, and had already established myself securely as a teacher . . . my temperament fitted Illinois society best." (compared with people in the West.)

Our first Nebraska home was in Hamilton Co., Nebr. where we lived until August, 1889 in a two-room cottage near the homes of Matt Champe and John Woods. Matt and his sister, Sarah (Champe) Woods, were relatives whom Father had known when they still lived in Illinois. In August we moved to Bromfield, Nebr. (now Giltner), where Father taught the upper grades in the two-room school. Our first home in Bromfield was a poor three-room house. Here daughter Emma was born on

March 5, 1890. During the summer of 1890, Father built a good two-room cottage, his first venture in home ownership.

In April and May, 1891, Father taught the East Bogue School, southeast of Bromfield. In August Father taught in the Gosper County (Nebr.) Teachers' Institute for two weeks, and we moved to Axtell where Father served as principal and taught the upper grades of the three-room school for nine months.

In June, 1892, Mother took her four small daughters back to Illinois for a visit with her mother and brothers at Pittsfield. Later when Father came, we visited his kin, including his grandparents, Wm. H. Wilson and wife, Matilda Scholl, and his father, Wm. L. Wilson. September found us settled in Arapahoe, Nebr. where Father taught during 1892-1893. This school had several teachers, and as "assistant principal" Father taught only the upper grades. This year was very stimulating to him as a teacher but a very hard

one because of illness at home. Daughter Ninon was born January 23, 1893. Soon diphtheria struck and several of us children were ill. During these weeks we had a hired girl, the only household help ever employed by our family. During the worst Father sat up all night looking after his sick children, teaching during the day.

In August, 1893, the family moved to Bertrand, Nebraska, where Father was principal of the four-room school during 1893-1894. He also became the bookkeeper for McGrath Bros. (Hardware and Harness), a job to which he devoted weekends and vacations continuously for ten years. In December, he finished the examinations for State Life Teacher's Certificate. In the spring of 1894, he took the necessary examinations and was admitted to the bar with license to practice as an Attorney at Law. In the summer, he again taught in the Gosper Co. Teachers' Institute for two weeks. During the next two years, he taught the Union School eight miles north of Bertrand and

the following two years, the Duff School, five miles north. During these four years, Father would walk or ride a bicycle to his school on Sunday afternoon or Monday morning, board with a nearby farm family during the week, return home to his family and his supplementary occupations on Friday evening.

These were years of hard times for this section of Nebraska, and the school districts could not pay their teachers. At the end of a month of teaching, Father would have the discouraging task of peddling his warrant, and he was usually obliged to accept a sizeable discount. But somehow our parents managed to keep their brood adequately fed and clothed, rent and fuel and doctor bills paid. I do not recall that I ever thought of our family as poor, for we were as well off as most of the families in the village. For the most part, we were happy, untroubled children, thanks in large part to our Mother's unfailing good nature as she went about her hard and unceasing duties.

During the first five years since moving to Bertrand, we had lived in three places. The first year we were in a flat over the postoffice, with the cluttered space back of the building as our only alternative to playing on the street. Then we were in the four-room Fromm house on the edge of the village, where we had a hay barn and a full block of buffalo grass turf for play. Here the sixth daughter, Susan Eliza, was born on November 26, 1895. Then we had a year in the five-room "parsonage" where on June 1, 1898 the seventh child and first son, Brice Legrand, was born. I was a member of the Bertrand graduating class that year; the school had only ten grades then, but increased to eleven grades the next year.

In 1898-1899, Father again served as principal of the Bertrand School, and we moved to a somewhat larger but no better house. In February, 1899, Mother went to Illinois to care for her ailing mother, taking only baby Brice,

returning in May. In the summer, Father opened an office where he sold fire insurance and handled legal matters. In 1900, Father bought a house north of the railroad track. It was sadly in need of reconditioning, but after many weeks of hard work, we had a comfortable home. Here on December 12, 1900, a second son, Jimmie, was born, six weeks premature. He died on January 23, 1901 of whooping cough.

In 1901-1902, Father taught for eight months in the Peterson School three miles north of Bertrand. In November, 1901, he ran for Phelps Co. Superintendent on the Democratic ticket, but lost by a slender margin. In the summer of 1903, Father sold the Bertrand home and bought one in Holdrege. Here he sold insurance, travelled part of the time as a special agent. He sold this house in March, 1904, and made a trip to Illinois and eastern Nebraska in search of a place to settle down. His conclusion was that Lincoln, Nebr. would be ideal as a home, but it was three years before he

A. K. Wilson family in 1901. From left, front row - Mother, Ninon, Susan, Father, Brice; back row - Emma, Maud, Olive, Myrtle.

Fifty-year anniversary celebration, 1932. From left, standing - Hughie and Susan Norris; Brice and Grace Wilson; Wm. McClung; Wm. and Myrtle Mikkelson; Maud Wilson. Seated - Melvin and Cecile Marquardt; Robert Norris; Holly Wilson; Margaret and Ninon McClung; Mary Jane and Abraham Key Wilson. In foreground - Pearl Norris; Wm. Norris; Mary Norris; Billy McClung.

made that goal. We lived in Exeter (near Lincoln) during the summer of 1904, then moved to Utica, where Father served as principal for two years. We lived in three houses while in Utica. Daughter Olive was married to George Sears on June 6, 1906, in a home wedding.

Father began work June 1, 1906 as a special agent for the Nebraska Mutual Insurance Company, a travelling job. In 1907, he bought the house at 1905 South 16th Street, Lincoln, and we moved in on July 13, our parents' silver wedding anniversary.

This place was home for us for fifteen years, during which time the rest of us children established homes of our own. Myrtle was married May 9, 1908 to W. T. Mikkelson; Ninon, March 17, 1914 to Wm. McClung; Emma, December 24, 1916 to J. E. Holley, and Susan, October 26, 1919 to H. R. Norris. Brice volunteered for the National Guard in 1916, served in the American Expeditionary Forces until 1919, and never lived at home

after his return except for brief periods. I lived at home most of the time from 1910 to 1918, then moved to the Pacific Northwest.

During the 1907-1922 period, Father continued to alternate teaching and travel for insurance companies. In 1908, he taught a two-month spring term north of Davey, did special work for an insurance company for a year, again taught the school north of Davey during 1909-1910. During the ensuing years, he taught at Capitol Beach, Firth, Eagle, and Weston, communities near Lincoln. In 1919-1920, he taught a one-room school in a lumber camp in the Cascade Mountains of Washington--a time of rest and physical recuperation for him, for his teaching duties were very light, his pupils eager to learn.

In March, 1922, our parents made their last move when we bought an acreage situated on the ridge three miles east of the Lincoln city center. After a brief try at chicken-raising, Father planted a fruit orchard that supplied him with an interesting and profitable occupation for the rest of his

life. Little by little the house was reconditioned and modernized, and evergreens were planted that came from the Illinois farm which had belonged to his grandfather Wilson.

In 1929, Father and Mother were called to Ohio by the serious illness of their fourth daughter, Emma, who passed away on May 5, 1929. On July 13, 1932, they celebrated their golden wedding anniversary, when five of their children were present with their families. In 1936, Mother's failing health made it necessary for her to have care. Their youngest daughter and her family moved in with them, and a one-room cottage was built near the main house for Father and his desk and books.

This three-generation arrangement prevailed for six years during which Mother's health gradually worsened, although she was not bedfast until the last few weeks of her life, and Father's health began to fail. Their sixty-year wedding anniversary, July 13, 1942, came and went without

any special notice. Mother passed away September 30, 1942, and Father, November 7, 1942. They are buried in the Eagle Cemetery, about ten miles east of Lincoln, a quiet rural spot far better suited as a resting place for our parents than any crowded urban burial ground could be.

What kind of people were our parents?

Father was about six feet tall, stoop shouldered, with fair skin, blue eyes, reddish beard. He was physically strong and seldom ill. In his later years he gradually became hard of hearing but never used a hearing aid.

Father learned easily, had an excellent memory. He was cautious, hardworking, honest, forthright; systematic, and appreciative of order and cleanliness; ambitious to get ahead in his chosen profession of teaching; anxious to achieve economic security, but never interested in moneymaking. He enjoyed an argument and was inclined to stand up to anyone who did not agree with him. In his earlier years he was given to short outbursts of

anger for which he would be immediately ashamed, and he would cradle a child in his arms and weep a bit. At other times he would pick up his fiddle and sit at a window with a faraway look in his eyes playing tune after moody tune until he had gotten hold of himself or had resolved the problem that was bothering him. He was sensitive to sights and sounds; strong colors in clothing or home decoration were offensive to him, and harsh noises were almost unbearable. He never would have a radio and in his later years did not have a telephone. He enjoyed violin music and went to hear orchestras whenever he could.

Father's chief diversions were reading, visiting, gardening. As a youth he had not enjoyed farm work, especially work with animals, but he always enjoyed raising a garden and taking care of the yard. The garden was always his personal enterprise; I regret that he did not teach his children what he knew about growing things, but in retrospect, I realize that the

garden was his place of refuge from household activity and confusion. During his last twenty years he had the opportunity to grow fruit trees. The Nebraska climate is not very favorable for that purpose, but he systematically tried out various kinds and varieties.

Father was devoted to his family and never liked to be away from home very long. He maintained friendships with certain relatives, old friends, and former students, and in his later years spent much time writing letters to them. He wrote an excellent letter, always carefully composed and written. He was always interested in political matters and was a member of the democratic party throughout his life. He had no church affiliation but was interested in religious beliefs and spoke of himself as a Unitarian.

Mother was about five feet, two inches tall. She had beautiful brown hair, gray eyes and a smooth olive skin. Her teeth were poor when I first remember her, and she had them all pulled

when she was 41 years old. She had excellent health, bore her children without incident, (except the prematurely-born last child) and nursed them until they were ready for the regular family fare. She was even-tempered, sunny, affectionate, seldom critical, never exacting, honest, courageous. Her characteristics as to thought and action changed little through the years of her married life.

Mother had a strong sense of duty so far as husband and children were concerned. She deferred to Father on all matters that he considered his business, and usually accepted his decisions without protest. She talked little, only now and then gave voice to her feelings and beliefs, so I can judge them only by an occasional comment; but I recall that she had a way of saying, "She's a poor excuse for a woman." that spoke volumes in terms of her ideals.

She was strong and liked to work. Family routines were regular, and the household generally operated smoothly except when some of the children

were sick. In the early years of their marriage, when Father studied every available moment for the examinations for teacher's certificate and for admission to the Bar, a quiet house for his evening study was as important as regular meals; hence, early bedtime was the rule for the rest of the family.

During the children's growing-up years Mother seldom left the house. Before her marriage she had belonged to the Methodist Church, but she did not transfer her membership until she had been married 25 years. She took little part in community life, but she was neighborly and always friendly to those who came to see us. After her daughters were married, she often visited them and was always on call in the event of an emergency. Both Father and Mother enjoyed having company and joined to extend welcome to everyone who came.

The move to the acreage in 1922 was probably not a good one for Mother for it took her away from the neighborhood where they had lived for

fifteen years. While Father was busy with what for him was an intensely interesting and creative project, she had too few social contacts and probably too little work to occupy her time. She began to be hard of hearing about the time that Father did, so communication between them was increasingly difficult, and she did not care to read much. During these years she made many visits to her married daughters, and Father learned to keep house for himself.

Mother always spoke of her mother and brothers with affection and respect, but she saw little of them after her marriage. She seldom spoke of the past. In her later years, I used to try to get her to talk about her Kentucky childhood, but she volunteered little information. She recalled that her maternal grandfather came to see them once. "We were just sitting one summer day when all of a sudden Mother jumped up and said, 'Here comes Pappy' and ran to meet the little man who came walking over the hill." It

was not until I started work on our family history that I realized how little we knew about her early life and ancestry.

Chapter Three

The Descendants

In midyear of 1961 there are 51 living descendants of our parents, Abraham Key Wilson and Mary Jane Mathes Wilson. Three of their eight children are still living, and there are ten grandchildren, thirty great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

As a family we have been blest with good health, although in our childhood we caught everything. Among Father's papers is a brief account of his Christmases when we were children: "1888 - Olive dangerously ill of pneumonia. 1891 - children all had scarlet fever in turn; I had severe flu. 1892 - diphtheria came in turn to all our children. 1896 - I was laid up with inflammatory rheumatism." Along with such tests of the fortitude and skill of our young parents there were the usual children's diseases--measles, scarletina, whooping cough, mumps, and every winter, tonsillitis, ear

Abraham Key Wilson was born February 5, 1861, in Buckhorn township Brown County, Illinois.

Emma Wilson was born March 5, 1890, in Bromfield Hamilton County Neb.

Mary Jane Mathes was born July 11, 1861, in Russell County Kentucky.

Nimon Wilson was born on January 23, 1893, in Arapahoe, Furnas County, Nebraska.

A. K. Wilson and M. J. Mathes were united in marriage July 13, 1882 in Pittsfield, Pike County, Illinois.

Susan Eliza Wilson was born on November 26, 1895, in Bertrand, Phelps County, Nebraska.

Maud Wilson was born July 6, 1883, in Newburg P. O. Pike County, Illinois, N. W. Sec. 6.

Bruce Legrand Wilson was born June 1, 1898 in Bertrand, Phelps Co. Nebr.

"Jimmie" Wilson was born Dec. 12, 1900, at Bertrand Nebr. and died Jan. 23, 1901.

Olive Josephine Wilson was born June 6, 1885, in Perry Tp. Pike Co. Ill. N. W. Cor Sec. 6.

Emma Wilson Holley died May 5, 1929 at Cincinnati O.

Myrtle Wilson was born October 30, 1887 in Fairmount P. O. Pike County, Illinois.

Birth record kept by A. K. Wilson

infections and the like. Our parents developed routines for the care of ailing children early in their married life. At night Father sat up to attend to fires and give the medicine while Mother got as much sleep as she could. Our family doctor was always called if unusual symptoms appeared, and his instructions were followed to the letter. Few home remedies were used, and patent medicines were rarely purchased.

Between bouts of illness we were a healthy lot. Mother was seldom sick enough to keep her from going about her endless tasks, and I do not recall that the current baby (breast fed) was ever sick. In the light of modern scientific ideas concerning diet, the food our parents provided may be given much credit. In the winter time, there was usually a pitcher of locally produced sorghum molasses on the table. We drank skim milk obtained from a nearby farmer for five cents a gallon, bought liver when available (because it was the cheapest meat

although we children preferred round steak), used cornmeal ground at the local mill. Our bread was homemade, oatmeal porridge the breakfast staple. In cold weather, Father would sometimes purchase a quarter of beef or half a hog from a farmer at butchering time, sometimes a hogs-head which Mother made up into scrapple. During the growing season we had snap beans, sweet corn and tomatoes from Father's garden. Tomatoes for canning and cabbage for winter use were purchased from farmers in bushel lots. We had apples when they were available but little other fruit.

Following are brief biographies of the children of "Abe" and "May" Wilson, with spaces allowed for writing in additional information.

Maud Wilson

Born in Pike Co., Ill., in 1883. The first grandchild for Wm. Legrand Wilson and for Susan Odle Nash, and the first great-grandchild for Wm. Howerton Wilson and Matilda Scholl Wilson.

All of my years from seven to seventy were spent in going to school, teaching, or doing some other type of educational work. I attended Normal School and taught in Nebraska Public Schools from 1899 to 1910; finished the course in Home Economics at the University of Nebraska in 1913, and was a member of its staff for five years. I moved to the Pacific Northwest in 1918 where I was on the staff of Washington State College (now University) for seven years, then on the staff of Oregon State College (now University) for the remainder of my working years. Since retirement, I have continued to live in Oregon.

Olive Josephine Wilson

Born in 1885 in Pike Co., Ill. Married 1906 George LeRoy Sears in Utica, Nebr. They had two sons and two daughters--Mazie Belle Sears, born 1907 in Bertrand, Nebr.; Frank Wilson Sears, born 1911 in Falls City, Nebr.; LeRoy Ellsworth Sears, born 1914 in Choteau, Mont.; and Doris Juanita Sears, born in 1918 in Choteau, Mont. LeRoy lived only three months; the other three children grew to maturity.

George LeRoy Sears was born in 1868 in Delaware Co., Ind. to Samuel Taylor Sears and Ann Eliza Abrams Sears. He saw service during the Spanish-American War. He was a painter by trade and worked in various places in Nebraska, Montana, Washington and California. He died in 1937 after a long illness and was buried in Vallejo, California.

Mazie Belle Sears married 1925 Martin Grafford Moore, son of Jonas Shelby Moore and Anne Rebecca Grafford Moore, and to them were born three sons and a daughter, all of them in California:

Martin Edward Moore, born 1925. Married 1952 Marjorie Ellen Wompler; they have a son, David Edward Moore, born in 1953, and a daughter, Linda Susan Moore, born 1961.

George Shelby Moore, born 1928.

Beverly Jane Moore, born 1932. Married 1951 George Joseph Elgier. They were divorced and Beverly married 1960 Dallas Ranceford Wenn.

Frank Richard Moore, born 1938.

In 1940 Mazie Belle married Charles Martin Erixson, and to them were born three daughters, all of them in California:

Patricia May Erixson born 1942. Married 1960
George Wm. Couryea, Jr.

Cheryl Dawn Erixson, born 1944. Married 1960
Muriel LaVerne Stephens.

Marcia Dianne Erixson, born 1948.

Frank Wilson Sears, second child of Olive Josephine Wilson Sears and George LeRoy Sears, was a machinist. He served his apprenticeship at Mare Island Navy Yard and graduated from the Apprentice School there. At the age of 35, he was killed in a street accident on Mare Island. He never married.

Doris Juanita Sears married 1936 Cyril Warren Curtis, son of George Wm. Curtis and Nellie Viola Dennis Curtis, and to them were born three daughters, all of them in California:

Marjorie Marilyn Curtis, born 1937. Married 1954
Henry Peyton Hopkins; they have a son, Jon Gregory Hopkins, born 1955, and a daughter, Heidi Lynne Hopkins, born 1957.

Lucile Rosalind Curtis, born 1942. Married 1961 Robert Joseph Sanchez.

DeAnna Marie Curtis, born 1943. Married 1960 Reginald Tyrell Dunn, and they have a daughter, Kathleen Marie Dunn, born 1960.

Olive Josephine Wilson Sears remarried twice after her children were grown, first to Richard E. Korff, who lived only two years; then to Wilbur D. Hester, who survived her. Olive died January 7, 1961 and was buried at Vallejo, California.

Myrtle Wilson

Born in 1887 in Pike Co., Ill. Married 1908 William Taylor Mikkelson in Omaha, Nebr. They had two children--a daughter, Emma Cecile Mikkelson, born 1914 in Lincoln, Nebr. and a son, William Richard Mikkelson, born 1916 in Seward, Nebr. Their son died in 1918 in Omaha, Nebr.

William Taylor Mikkelson was born in 1887 in Utica, Nebr. to James Larsen Mikkelson and Anna Batilda Mikkelson, both of Danish parentage. He was a baker by trade and operated bakeries in Seward, Merna, and Omaha, Nebr. He is now living in Los Angeles, California.

Emma Cecile Mikkelson married 1932 Melvin Helmith Marquardt, son of Ray Charles Marquardt and Minnie Fisher Marquardt, and to them were born three sons:

Melvin Helmith Marquardt, Jr., born 1932 in Nebr. Saw military service in Korea 1950 to 1952. Occupation electrician. Married 1952 Pamela Smith, and they have two daughters, Melinda Mia Marquardt, born 1954, and Kim Lei Marquardt, born 1955, both born in California.

William Richard Marquardt, born 1934 in Nebr. Saw military service as a naval air force photographer. Occupation photographer. Married 1958 Margaret McDowall Bean, and they have a daughter, Maryanne Heather Marquardt, born 1959.

Raymond Charles Marquardt, born 1951 in Calif.

Myrtle Wilson Mikkelson died February 23, 1960 in Los Angeles, Calif., her home for many years, and was buried in the Mikkelson plot of the Utica (Nebr.) cemetery.

Emma Wilson

Born 1890 in Bromfield (now Giltner), Nebr. Graduated from Normal School and taught in Nebraska high schools. Married 1916 Jasper E. Holley, and they had a daughter, Elizabeth Maud Holley, born 1917 in Kansas City, Mo., and a son, Jasper Wilson Holley, born 1919 in Chicago, Ill.

Jasper E. Holley was born in West Virginia in 1875 to Albert Holley and Ella Wise Holley. His occupations have included lecturing on religious topics and the production of illustrative materials used by religious organizations.

Elizabeth (Betty) Maud Holley married 1942 Vaughn Thompson Meadows, son of Vaughn Harry Meadows and Hazel English Meadows, and to them have been born two daughters and a son, all of them in California--Holly Anne Meadows, born 1943; Vaughn Wilson Meadows, born 1944; and Heidi June Meadows, born 1949. Vaughn Thompson Meadows is an entrepreneur.

Jasper Wilson Holley received the Ph.D. degree from the University of Southern California in 1947, with a major in Psychology. In 1942 he married Kathryn Kleone Cogswell and they had a son, Raymond Edward Holley, born in 1945. They were divorced, and in 1959, he married Claire Ursula Branton.

Emma Wilson Holley died in 1929 in Cincinnati, Ohio, and was buried in the Madisonville, Ohio cemetery.

Ninon Wilson

Born 1893 in Arapahoe, Nebr. Taught in Nebr. rural schools for two years. Married Wm. McClung in 1914, and they lived on their Nebraska ranch until 1948. Wm. McClung was born in Ireland in 1871, the son of Samuel McClung and Ellen McCormick McClung. He died in 1948 and is buried in the Greeley (Nebr.) cemetery.

The McClungs had no children of their own. In 1931 they took two dependent children into their home and kept them until they were able to care for themselves--Helen Johanna Norris, then nine years old, and LeRoy Byrd Ogden, four years old. The children wanted new names, so Helen became Margaret, and LeRoy, Billy. Billy went into the air force in 1943 and piloted planes during the 1948 airlift for besieged Berlin. He is married and lives in California. Margaret married Bill Gibson in 1942, had sons Jerry and Donald. This marriage lasted only two years. The McClungs cared for Jerry and Donald until

Margaret married Wm. Friederich in 1948. They live in California.

In 1954 Ninon Wilson McClung married Raymond Paul Welch, born 1902 in New York. He saw military service, was discharged in 1943. He died at Watsonville, Calif. in 1958, and was buried in the Golden Gate National Cemetery at San Bruno, Calif. Ninon Welch is now living in Watsonville.

Susan Eliza Wilson

Born 1895 in Bertrand, Nebr. Named for her grandmothers, Susan Odle Nash and Ann Eliza Wheelock Wilson. Finished a business course and worked as stenographer before her marriage. In 1919 married Hughie Robert Norris in Lincoln, Nebr., and to them were born two sons, Robert

Wilson Norris and William Dean Norris, and three daughters, Mary Louise Norris, Pearl Kathaleen Norris, and Carol Ann Norris--all of them born in or near Lincoln, Nebr. Carol Ann Norris lived only a few days.

Hughie Robert Norris was born in Nobe Co., Ky., in 1890, to Wm. Edgar Norris and Delanie Wilburn Norris. He was a farmer and during most of the first seventeen years of their married life, the Norris family lived on farms just east of Lincoln. In 1936 they went to live with Father and Mother, caring for them and for the acreage home as long as they lived. After our parents' deaths in 1942, the Norris family continued to live in Lincoln. The children finished school and the two sons entered military service. By 1948 the boys were civilians again and all four of the children were married. In 1953 Hughie Norris had a fall which resulted in his death within two weeks.

Mary Louise Norris, oldest of the five

children, was born in 1921. Married Bernard William Lane in 1946, and to them have been born two sons:

William Norris Lane, born 1947 in Lincoln, Nebr.

James Paul Lane, born 1956 in Kansas City, Mo.

Bernard William Lane was born in 1908 in Kansas City, Mo. to Edward Morris Lane and Mary Elizabeth Morgan Lane. He was in the U.S. Navy during World War II. His occupation is that of shoe store manager.

Pearl Kathaleen Norris was born in 1922. Married Albert Peter Morell in 1944, and they have a family of four daughters and a son, all born in Struthers, Ohio:

Judith Ann Morell, born in 1945.
Tony Sue Morell, born in 1947.
Cathlyn Marie Morell, born in 1949.
Albert Peter Morell, Jr., born in 1956.
Tina Louise Morell, born in 1959.

Albert Peter Morell, the father, was born in 1922 to Peter Morell and Mary Rossi Morell, in Struthers, Ohio. He was in the U. S. Air Force during World War II. His occupation is that of auto service manager.

Robert Wilson Norris was born in 1924. Married in 1948 Viola May Epler, daughter of Orville Epler and Annie May Emery Epler, born in Nebr. in 1925. Robert Wilson Norris was a member of the U. S. Air Force during World War II. His occupation is that of owner-manager of an auto tire store. In 1952 they adopted a child six months old, and named her Roberta May Norris. Then in 1957 they adopted a five-day-old baby, and named her Marcia Norris.

William Dean Norris was born in 1927. During World War II, he saw military service in Japan as a member of a signal service unit. In 1948 he married Loretta Hunt, and they became the parents of four children, one of whom survived only a short time. William Dean Norris, Jr. was born in 1949; Linda Lucille Norris in 1952;

Scott Wayne Norris in 1955. William Dean Norris and Loretta Hunt Norris were divorced, and in 1959 he married Betty Johnson. They are the parents of two sons, born 1960, and Dee Eldon Norris, born 1961.

Susan Eliza Wilson Norris married Charles Merrit Sanders in March, 1954, and in May of that year he passed away. Susan now makes her home with her daughter, Mary in Kansas City.

Brice Legrand Wilson

Born 1898 in Bertrand, Nebr. In 1916-1917 he was with Nebraska Field Hospital No. 1 at Camp Llano Grande, Texas. In 1917 he enlisted in the 42nd (Rainbow) Division, A.E.F., together with

many of his Lincoln friends, and was a member of No. 166 Field Hospital, 117th Sanitary Train. They arrived in France in December, 1917, saw service in the Luneville, Baccarat, Ecury, Chateau Thiery, Toul, and Verdun sectors. Most of the time, the 166th was with the heavy artillery, from five to seven miles back, giving first aid to the injured. After the Armistice in November, 1918, Brice was with the Army of Occupation in Neuenahr, Germany and by the middle of January, 1919 was spending most of his time as an entertainer in the army theaters and on the Rhine excursion boats.

In 1925 Brice married Grace Antoinette Benham, daughter of Wm. L. Benham and Anna Maud Rice Benham in Cincinnati, Ohio. Their only child, Holly Anne Wilson, was born in 1929 in Cincinnati.

Brice was a self-taught musician, playing the piano and some of the band instruments. Between his Army experience and his marriage in 1925, he played in orchestras in various cities

in the eastern states. After he had established a home, he worked in offices in a managerial capacity, and for several years had a part-time job as a piano player in addition to his day-time responsibilities.

Brice's health was affected by his army experience. Immediately after his return home in 1919, he was treated for some time for a lung condition. Later he became afflicted with arthritis, and during the last several years of his life, his spine was rigid and his back bent to a 30-degree angle. He died in April, 1948, of lung cancer and was buried in the Spring Grove Cemetery, Cincinnati.

In 1953, Holly Anne Wilson married Lewis White Lasley, and they are the parents of Caroline Anne Lasley, born in 1954. Lewis White Lasley was born in Kentucky in 1928 to Charles Lasley and Anna May Fletcher Lasley. He served in the U. S. Army during World War II, part of the time in Japan. His occupation is that of factory inspector.

Chapter Four

Ancestors and Their Families

What We Know About Our Ancestry

Father's paternal ancestry can be traced back to his great-grandfather William Spencer Wilson and his great-great-grandfather William Scholl. Both of these ancestors lived in Virginia and migrated to Kentucky, and their descendants moved on to Illinois. Less is known of Father's maternal ancestry. His grandfather Wheelock was an orphan. His great-grandmother Hunter (Eliza D. Wheelock's mother, Susan Reed Hunter) was born in Scotland; she was living in Tennessee when her daughter Eliza was born.

Nothing is known of our mother's ancestry except her mother's maiden name, Susan Odle, and her father's last name, Mathes. (Father's Family Tree manuscript includes no first name for his father-in-law, but Thompson's Pike County History lists him as William Mathes.)

Sources of Information

During the years 1925-1929, Father recorded his recollections concerning his ancestors and their families, checked and supplemented by information supplied by cousins and other relatives he wrote or visited during that period. This record is contained in two notebooks in his handwriting--Memoirs and Family Tree. Father spent his growing years in western Illinois (Pike and Brown Counties) in neighborhoods where his relatives lived. He knew well all four of his grandparents, for he was 25 years old before the first of them passed away, and 28 years old before he moved away from that area. He was apparently interested from an early age in the tales of his grandfather Wilson and other relatives about their life in Kentucky, their coming to Illinois, and their pioneer experiences.

Father's interest in tracing his Scholl ancestry received considerable impetus from a Kentucky relative, Asa C. Barrow, who owned part

of the land acquired from Daniel Boone in 1780. In his later years, Mr. Barrow became a student of Kentucky history; he assisted in the preparation of a book on Daniel Boone, and wrote Clark County Chronicles. Father had the great pleasure of visiting the Barrow family in their Kentucky home, built in 1819 by the Scholl family. For some time, the two ancestor searchers carried on correspondence which proved to be mutually helpful, for previously Mr. Barrow had known nothing about their common ancestor, Abraham Scholl, after he sold his Kentucky land in 1826 and moved to Illinois.

During the years 1956 to 1960, I examined genealogical materials in the public libraries of St. Louis, Los Angeles, Portland (Ore.) and Lexington (Ky.); Kentucky State Library; Berea College (Ky.) Library; the DAR Library and the Library of Congress in Washington, D. C.; California State Genealogical Library (Sutro); and the LDS Genealogical Society's Library in

Salt Lake City. I found only one family history that includes an ancestral line of ours--Scholl, Sholl, Shull Genealogy, the Colonial Branches, by John William Scholl, 1930; nevertheless the time spent in the libraries was very rewarding. I became aware of the importance of learning something of the history of the migrations, from Europe to America, of the Welsh, Scotch, Irish, and Germans, when and why they came to the new world and where they settled. I hope to do more reading about these migrations.

In 1936 there appeared in the Pike County (Ill.) Republican a series of installments of the Pike County History by Jess M. Thompson. Installments 41, 47, 49, 51, 52, 53, and 54 include considerable general information concerning the Wheelocks, Scholls, and Wilsons and their part in the pioneer development of Pike and Brown counties. Credit is given Father and his brother John for information they supplied Mr. Thompson. These installments were used as

source materials in the preparation of this story about our ancestors.

Certain bits of information concerning the earlier history of the Scholl family were obtained from the findings of genealogists and historians who traced the ancestry and life of the scout, Daniel Boone, and that of our ancestor, Abraham Scholl, who was a participant in the Revolutionary War.

In 1956, I visited three Illinois relatives --Father's nephew Frank Beard, and his first cousins, Josephine Fisk Harshman and Frederick Manker, who brought out family records and family photographs. Frank took me to see grandfather Wilson's old place on McGee's Creek (which he owns) where Father spent so much of his time as a small boy. We crossed the creek at the Wilson Ford and drove up to the homestead, now in ruins, on the crest of the rise above Cedar Bluff, a beautiful spot! No wonder Father never got over being homesick for the sight of

it. The Wilson cemetery, which is near the house, is kept fenced and cleared of brush. Frank took me to see three other cemeteries where our kin are buried--Griggsville, with its DAR marker on the grave of Abraham Scholl, and the Benville and Seaborn Cemeteries. I am indeed grateful to these three Illinois cousins for their interest and help in clarifying and supplementing my knowledge of our ancestors.

In Kentucky, I have Martha Barrow Jenks, daughter of Asa C. Barrow, to thank for a personally conducted trip to the farm near Winchester where the earliest known Scholl ancestor, Wm. Scholl, settled in 1780, also for the loan of a manuscript by her father on the Scholl settlement in Clark County, Ky.

The Ancestors of Mary Jane Mathes

Our maternal grandmother, Susan Odle Mathes, was born in the Cumberland Valley, in Kentucky or perhaps Tennessee. Nothing is known about her husband except that he was in

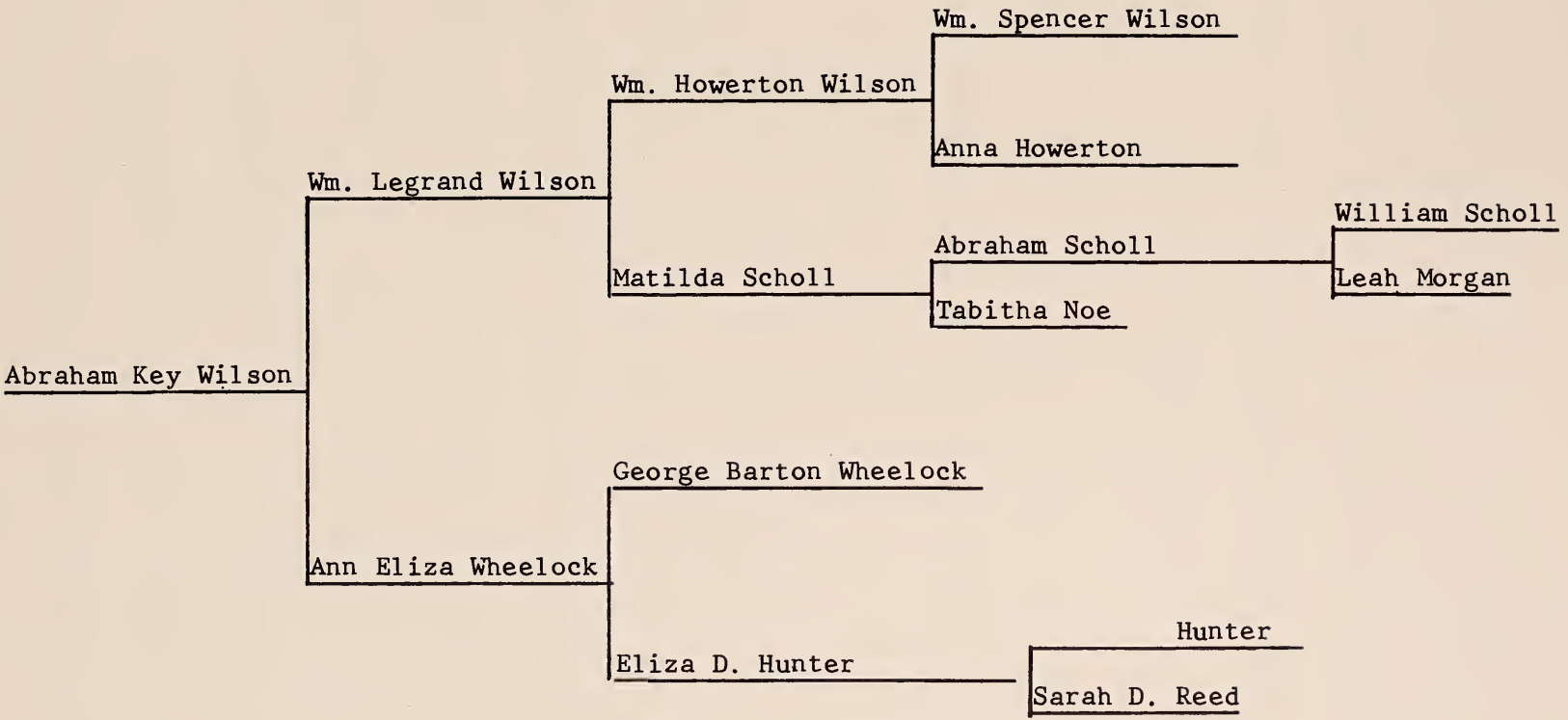
military service in the Civil War and did not return to his family after the conflict was over. They had two children--James Madison Mathes, born about 1853, and Mary Jane Mathes, born July 11, 1861 in Russell Co., Ky.

Susan Odle Mathes Nash.

In 1874 grandmother and her two children left Burkesville, Ky. for Pittsfield, Pike Co., Ill. where she had a sister, Mrs. Garrett. This sister was probably older than grandmother, for the sister's son, Pleasant Garrett, fought in the Civil War, was wounded, and drew a pension the rest of his life. In 1875 she married John Nash and in 1876 bore a son, John Nash, Jr. John grew up in Pittsfield, married there. Her older son, James Madison Mathes, never married, and he and his mother lived in Pittsfield until the end. Susan Odle Nash died in Pittsfield in May 1899.

My examination of family histories in genealogical libraries in 1956-1960 resulted in only one lead for further investigation of the Mathes line, that of an Irish immigrant whose descendants moved to Washington County, Tennessee, in 1782.

Pedigree Chart - Abraham Key Wilson



The Wilsons

The Wilson line in America begins with William Spencer Wilson, who lived in Grayson County, Va. It was Father's opinion, based on recollections of his grandfather Wilson's tales, that Wm. Spencer himself came from Scotland, but another account has it that he was born in Grayson County, Va., and that his father (name unknown) had come from Scotland shortly before his (Wm. Spencer's) birth.

Our ancestor, William Howerton Wilson, was born to Wm. Spencer Wilson and his wife Anna Howerton Wilson in 1806. There were two older children in the family--a son, Obadiah, and a daughter, Fannie. Fannie must have been much older than her brother, Wm. Howerton, because she had a son nearly as old as he was.

In 1813 the Wm. Spencer Wilson family moved to Kentucky to a place near Barbourville, Knox County (then a part of Lincoln Co.). The family was also located in Barren County, Ky. for a time. After the death of his wife,

Wm. Spencer Wilson started for Texas and was never heard from. Obadiah was last heard from in Arkansas, about 1827. Fannie was married in Kentucky to John Bowen and bore him two sons, Morrison and Joshua. After Mr. Bowen's death, she married a Mr. Decker and bore him two sons, Solomon and Washington. After Mr. Decker's death, Fannie moved to Illinois where she married Mr. Rankin, a schoolmaster, and bore a daughter.

According to family tradition, Wm. Spencer Wilson fought in the Revolutionary War, enlisting from Grayson County, Va. A search of the roster in the DAR Genealogical Library in Washington, D. C. in 1956 revealed several William Wilsons, but middle names are not given for any of them.

When Wm. Howerton Wilson was eighteen years old, he went to Pike Co., Ill. with Abraham Scholl and his family, arriving March 18, 1825. He had taken a squatter

claim two miles north of the present Griggsville, near the Scholl claim. On May 26, 1828 he was married to Matilda, daughter of Abraham and Tabitha Noe Scholl, at Atlas, then the county seat. They lived on this place for 28 years during which time their ten children were born.

In order of birth, the children of Wm. H. and Matilda Wilson were:

Wm. Legrand, born 1829, died 1914. Our ancestor.

Wm. Howerton Wilson and Matilda Scholl Wilson, with sons John (right) and George, and McGee's Creek farm home. 1892.

Erastus, born in 1832. In 1854 he started for the California gold fields, was killed on the trail in Western Missouri. He was not married.

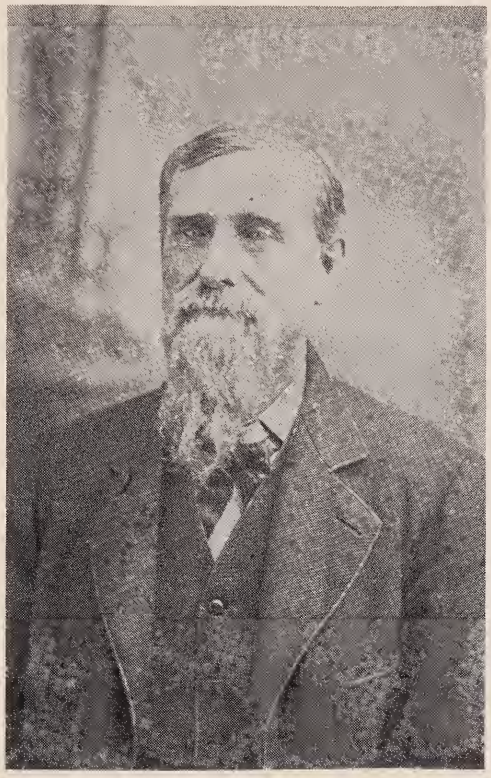
Nelson M., born 1835. Died 1863 in the Union Army Camp (99th Division) at Pilot Knob, Mo. and was buried there. Later the family brought the body home, and the first grave in the Wilson family cemetery was dug to receive it. He was not married.

Charles Gilliam, born 1837. Enlisted in the 99th Infantry, Union Army. Married Mary F Norton in 1863, and they became the parents of three sons and three daughters--George H., Nelly, Benton, Annie, Boone, and Mary Grace. Mary Grace died at the age of two and was buried in the Wilson cemetery. This family (except George) moved to the state of Washington. Benton did not marry. Nelly married twice, to a Thompson (children Clyde and Verna) and

Pat Croken. Boone married and had a son, born about 1924.

Elizabeth (Betsy) born in 1839, died in 1917. Married Wm. A. Hines in 1857, and they had two children, Mary (married Percy Saunders) and Wm. Hines, Jr. Wm. Hines, Sr. enlisted in the 99th Ill. Infantry. He died within a few days after returning from the Civil War battle front, and was buried in Woodland Cemetery. In 1864, Elizabeth married John Robert Brewer, and to them were born eight children--Annie, Minnie (Davis), Levi, John, Bertha (Rose), Charles, James, and a daughter whose name is not known.

Amanda, born 1842, died 1929. Married Charles Saunders in 1866. Their children were Mary, Alfred Lawrence, William Howerton, and Annette. Mary married James A. Davis, had a son, Hatten. Wm. Howerton married Mabel Lundgard, had a son, Wm. Howerton Saunders, Jr.



Wm. Legrand Wilson and his wife
Ann Eliza Wheelock Wilson.

John H., born 1845, died 1924. Did not marry.

Eliza, born 1848. Married Perry H. Manker. Five children grew to maturity--Frederick, Wilson, Emma (married Nelson Scholl), Tamson (Minehan), and Theresa (Haney).

George S., born 1851. Died 1923. Did not marry.

Minnesota (Minnie), born 1854, died 1925. In 1869 married Daniel Webster Fisk and bore three children--George William, John Elezer, and Josephine (married Peter Harshman).

In 1856, William Howerton Wilson moved his family to the place on McGee's Creek that was home for them for the rest of their lives. He was blind the last thirty years of his life. His wife, Matilda, died in 1892, aged 81 years; he passed away in 1894, at the age of 88. Both were buried in the Wilson family cemetery.

Wm. Legrand Wilson was the oldest child of Wm. H. and Matilda Wilson. At the age of twelve, he started carrying mail between the

post towns of Griggsville and Kinderhook. Later he worked in the woods in Minnesota, but most of his life was spent in the McGee's Creek area of Pike County. His wife, Ann Eliza, was the daughter of George Barton Wheelock and Eliza Hunter.

In order of birth, the children of Wm. L. and Ann Eliza Wilson were:

Josephine, born 1858. In her teens she went to live with her mother's sisters in Chicago. She was married first to a Rawlins, then to Wm. Skinkle. She had no children. The Skinkles lived in New York City during most of their married life. After her husband's death (about 1903), Josephine continued to live in New York City until about 1920 when she returned to the Wilson home on McGee's Creek to live with her sister Jane. She died in 1925 and was buried in the Wilson cemetery.

Abraham Key (Abe), born 1861, in Brown Co., Ill., just a few rods from the Pike County line.

Charles Nelson, born 1862. Died 1864--had measles and whooping cough at the same time. Buried in the Wilson cemetery.

John Smith, born 1865 in Brown Co., Ill. Married Lizzie McNeff in 1892, and they had a daughter, Zelma. John farmed in Pike and Brown Counties, operated a hotel in Mt. Sterling, Ill. Zelma died in her twentieth year, her mother soon after her. They are buried in the Catholic cemetery in Mt. Sterling. In 1916, John married Nora McWherter. He died in 1940.

Wm. Spencer (Willie), born 1867. In 1871 he was drowned on the home farm in a walled-up spring. He is buried in the Wilson cemetery.

Almeda (Meda), born 1871. She grew up in Illinois, moved to Nebraska in her early twenties. Married George B. Balston in

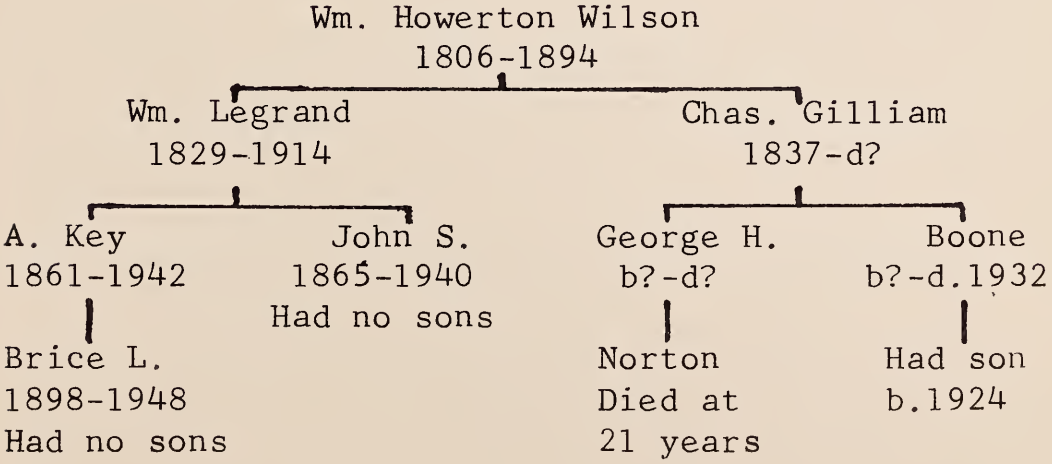
1895, and to them were born four sons and a daughter--Frank, Alice, Allan K., Richard, and Paul. The family lived in Lincoln, Nebr., for a time, then in Argentina, Kan., finally in St. Louis, Mo. Mr. Balston was born in England, came to the U.S. as a young man, worked for the C.B.&Q. and Frisco railroads until retirement. He lived to be almost 100 years old. Alice worked for Western Union in St. Louis until retirement age; she was married three times, had no children. She died about 1950. Almeda spent her last years in a home for elderly people near St. Louis, passed away in 1955.

Jane, born 1874. After her mother's death in 1882, she lived with her sister Josephine Skinkle in New York City for several years, later taught in Illinois rural schools. She lived in Kansas for a time, married John Beard, and bore him

a son, Frank Allen, born in 1911. She returned with her son to the Wilson home on McGee's Creek about 1915, and cared for her bachelor uncles, John and George Wilson, and her widowed sister, Josephine Skinkle, until they had all passed away. Frank married Inez Jones in 1933, and to them were born a daughter, Mary Louise Beard, in 1936, and a son, Allen Edward Beard, in 1937. The Frank Beard family lived on a farm near his mother while she was still living. In 1943, Jane met her death by drowning in McGee's Creek, and was buried in the Benville, Ill. cemetery.

William Legrand Wilson continued to live on small farms in the McGee's Creek area for many years. After he became an old man, he lived with his son John in Mt. Sterling, Ill. He died in 1914 and was buried in the Wilson family cemetery.

For our line of Wilsons living in America, I know of only three male descendants in the fifth generation--Brice, son of Abraham Key and grandson of Wm. Legrand; Norton, son of George H. and grandson of Charles Gilliam; and the son of Boone, grandson of Charles Gilliam, whose name is not known. Brice died without male issue; Norton died at 21 years. Boone's son was born in 1924, hence, was eight or nine years old when his father died in 1932. The family home at that time was Spokane, Washington. A 1960 inquiry of Wilsons listed in the Spokane telephone book revealed no one who could be Boone's son.



The Scholls

William Scholl, the grandfather of Matilda Scholl, (wife of Wm. Howerton Wilson) was born in the early part of the 18th century in Augusta County (in the part that is now Rockingham County), in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. No record exists of his ancestry. The Scholl name is common in the middle and upper Rhine Valley in Germany, and from this area there was a constant stream of immigrants to America in the 17th and 18th centuries. William's parents might have been Peter Scholl and his Scotch wife, Sarah Colyer (or Kalyer), who lived in the Raritan District of New Jersey from 1714 to 1731. They had two children, Deborah, born 1728, and William, born 1731. (There is documentary evidence to show that a William Scholl was living in Virginia in association with an older Peter Scholl.) Another possibility is that our ancestor, William Scholl, may have been the son of Jacob Scholl, born in Holland (or Germany) and his wife, Jane Morgan, a Scotch girl.

Wm. Scholl may have been married twice--first a Van Meter, mother of his sons Peter and Joseph, then Leah Morgan, mother of our ancestor Abraham Scholl. All of Wm.'s eleven children (possibly twelve), were born in Virginia. Jacob (born about 1751) died in infancy; William (born 1752) was killed at the beginning of the French and Indian War; John died of smallpox while a soldier stationed at Point Pleasant, Va. (now West Va.).

In the fall of 1779, with his wife Leah Morgan and eight children, William Scholl joined a party organized by his cousin Daniel Boone to colonize Kentucky. In the same pack train was Abraham Lincoln, father of Thomas Lincoln and grandfather of the man who became president of the United States, who was interested in finding a new location for his family. They arrived in Boonesboro, Ky., on Christmas Day, 1779, where they were met by Daniel Boone.

The next day, the Scholls went to Boone's Station, erected half-faced camps made of boards and forked sticks, and lived there until March, when Boone took them to the 1400-acre tract of land in Clark Co. which he had transferred to them. Here William's sons, Peter, Joseph, and Abraham (our ancestor), built Scholl's station in 1781 or 1782. After a time, Wm. Scholl established a home in Fayette Co. near Boone's station, where he died in 1803.

Peter Scholl, born in 1754, married Mary Boone, a niece of Daniel Boone, about 1782. Thirteen of their fourteen children grew to maturity. Their daughter, Lydia, married Boone Hayes, a grandson of Daniel Boone. Their son Edward and daughter Malinda (married Joseph Jackson) settled in Pike Co., Ill. Their son John settled in Callaway Co., Mo., where Daniel Boone lived after leaving Kentucky.

Peter continued to live in Clark County, Ky. He became a slave owner, and his treatment

of slaves was said to have been one cause for his younger brother Abraham's decision to sell his Kentucky land and move to Illinois in 1826. Peter saw considerable military service. He fought in the great battle of the tribes at Point Pleasant in 1774 and the Battle of Blue Licks in 1782. But when he applied for a pension after the Revolutionary War, he did not get it because he was "in good circumstances."

Wm. Scholl's son, Joseph, born in Virginia in 1755 or 1756, married Daniel Boone's daughter Levina. Several of their children settled in Callaway Co., Mo. Joseph made a prospecting trip to Illinois and Missouri about 1803 but continued to live in Kentucky. He died in 1835 in Clark Co. Wm. Scholl's son Isaac married Charity Elledge and settled in Tennessee. His daughter Sally married Samuel Shortridge and went to live in Tippecanoe Co., Ind. His daughter Rachel married David Denton, and they settled in Barren Co., Ky. Elizabeth married Arnold Custer and went to live in Madison Co., Ind.

Our ancestor, Abraham Scholl, was born in 1764 or 1765, hence his half-brothers Peter and Joseph were ten to twelve years older than he. Abraham was a lad of fourteen or fifteen when the family made the move from Virginia to Kentucky in 1779. Three years later, in 1782, he and his brothers, Peter and Joseph, fought in the Battle of Blue Licks. Their names are inscribed on the monument at Louisville, Ky., on the roster of the privates who escaped.

Abraham was married twice. His first wife was Nellie (or Rebecca) Humble (or Umble), by whom he had six children. The oldest, Morgan, was born in 1788. He was not married, except for a brief period late in life, and went with his father in his move to Illinois in 1826. Our father (A. K. Wilson) remembered "Uncle Maud" as a feeble old man in 1865. The other children of Abraham and Nellie were Achilles (Killice, Killis); Uriah, married Alice Hardesty in 1816; Annie, married Daniel Mickleberry in 1808;

Celia, married Martin Gilson (Gilson Martin?) in 1817; and Rachel, married Hinchia Gilliam Barrow in 1810. Rachel's grandson, Asa C. Barrow, has been mentioned previously as a Kentucky historian as well as the owner of the Scholl homestead in Clark Co., Ky.

In 1803, Abraham Scholl married sixteen-year-old Tabitha Noe. They had twelve children, ten of whom grew to maturity. All of them were born in Clark County, Ky. Matilda, their sixth child, was born in 1811, moved with her father to Illinois in 1826, married Wm. Howerton Wilson in 1828, died in 1892. Matilda's brothers and sisters were:

Sarah, married in 1820 in Clark Co., Ky. to Marshall Key. Had eight children. Father (Abraham Key Wilson) was named for one of their sons. The Keys moved to Grant County, Wisconsin.

Leah, married in 1827 in Pike County, Ill. to Hiram Ratten. Moved to Texas.

Sirilda, married in 1833 to Asher Miller.

Adeline, born in 1807. Married in 1828 in Pike Co., Ill. to Henry C. Bushnell and went at once to live in Grant Co. Wisconsin. Had seven children.

William, born in 1810. Married Polly Dale in Pike Co., Ill. Children were Silas (Sile) Edward, married Sarah Jane Webb; Rhoda, married Jim Six; Phoebe, married Brice Carpenter. William died in 1879, and was buried in the Benville, Ill. cemetery.

Peter, born in 1813. Married Liza Jane Coleman. Their children were Minnie (married a Robison), Adeline (married a Cochran), and Vergil. Peter died in 1868.

Abraham, Jr., married Diantha Davis.

Eliza, married (1) a Steele, (2) a Lovejoy.

Elizabeth, born in 1821. Married Charles F. Gibbs in 1836. Died in Pike Co., Ill. in 1862 and was buried in the Griggsville Cemetery.

Father (A. K. Wilson) recalled that his grandmother Wilson (Matilda Scholl) spoke of her birthplace as having been just a short distance from the brick house on the Scholl farm in Clark Co., Kentucky, and she remembered playing in its big rooms. It was in this house, built about 1819, that Father was entertained by the A. C. Barrow family (mentioned in previous section).

In the early 1820's, Abraham Scholl and some of his relatives made a prospecting trip to Illinois, and he selected the claim in Pike Co. on which he later settled. When he returned to Kentucky, he told of the vast uninhabited prairie covered with tall grass, which he regarded as waste land, fit for nothing but grazing. Many of the other pioneers made the same error, thinking that the best land was that which was then heavily forested. In Father's Memoirs, speaking of his boyhood in Pike and Brown Counties, he tells of the poverty of the farm families living along the creeks and in

the woods compared with those who lived up on the prairie.

In 1826 Abraham sold his land in Clark County, Ky., and moved his family to his Pike Co., Ill. claim. In his party were thirteen of his children and two families of freed slaves, also Wm. Howerton Wilson, who later became his son-in-law. On the way, Abraham was robbed of his gold by members of Murrel's gang in the guise of pioneer preachers. Asa C. Barrow wrote in Clark County Chronicles, "Abraham Scholl's trip to Illinois was very similar to the one he made to Kentucky in 1779. When they arrived in Illinois they again built half-moon camps and at night kept a fire burning in front of it continuously to keep away the wolves."

Abraham and Tabitha Scholl continued to live in the Griggsville area of Pike Co., Ill. Sons William and Peter and daughters Matilda Wilson and Elizabeth Gibbs lived in the general vicinity, and their children and grandchildren

were Father's cherished friends. Abraham died in 1852 and his wife, Tabitha Noe Scholl, in 1865. They are buried in the Griggsville, Ill. cemetery.

The Wheelocks

Our paternal grandmother, Ann Eliza Wheelock was born in 1835 to George Barton Wheelock and Eliza D. Hunter Wheelock, in Fort Madison, Iowa, then in Michigan Territory. The Wheelock family consisted of seven girls and five boys and included two sets of twins. The children in order of birth were:

Sarah E., born 1834. Died in less than a month.

James Madison, born 1835. Died 1845 of cholera.

Ann Eliza, born 1835. Married Wm. Legrand Wilson. Died in 1882.

Sarah, born 1838. Married 1860 John R. Lindsey, had three daughters, two sons. Died 1907.

Mary, born 1838. Married Thomas Roberts, had eight children. Died 1874, leaving five little children. One of these children, Mary Roberts Bryan, became a writer of short stories, articles, and poetry. She was reared by her aunt, Amanda Wheelock, after her mother's death.

Van Buren, born 1840. Died 1845.

Elisha, born 1842. Married, had two children. Blind at 30. Died 1882.

Abagail, born 1844. Married W. Penn, had one child, a son. Remarried to T. Willett. Lived in Hannibal, Mo., where she did dressmaking. Later lived in Chicago. Died in 1922.

Amanda, born 1846. Lived in Chicago, worked in a factory. Did not marry. Died 1924.

Almeda, born 1848. Died 1917.

George Barton, Jr., born 1851. Woodsman and farmer. Died 1901.

Oscar E., born 1853. Died 1896. Accidentally killed.

Ann Eliza, Father's mother, was courageous and spirited, and in her youth noted as a horsewoman. Her daughter Meda recalled that old timers said she had "the finest figger they ever seed." She was in ill health during the latter part of her life and walked with

difficulty. Meda wrote in 1943, "I can dimly remember my mother's walking; from very early I was her feet and legs." She put up a hard fight for her children, and during the years of desperate poverty of the Civil War period, she earned money by sewing at home, taking her pay in butter, bacon grease, garden and orchard products. When she died at 47, Meda was only eleven and Jane nine years old. Her oldest daughter Josephine had gone to live with her mother's sisters in Chicago after they became established there, and married soon; when her mother died in 1882, she took her younger sister Jane to Chicago to live with her.

George Barton Wheelock was born in 1810 or 1811. He is a man of mystery so far as antecedents are concerned. Father noted in his Family Tree manuscript that his grandpap Wheelock was reared by foster parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Freeman, and that he was born in Connecticut. But Father's sister, Almeda,

wrote me shortly after Father's death that he was a Freeman, reared by the Wheelock family and took the name. He was a millwright, cabinet-maker and farmer. His first home in Illinois appears to have been in Adams County where in 1833 he married Eliza Hunter. He built a mill at Kingston, then moved to Ft. Madison, Iowa, where he built a mill. The next move was to Pike County, Illinois where he owned a farm. His grandchildren remembered him as a tall man, deaf, intelligent, noted for his skill as a craftsman. Aunt Meda recalled that the cherrywood cabinet which stood for nearly sixty years in the kitchen on Grandpa Wilson's farm was made by Grandpap Wheelock.

We have a little more information about Eliza D. Hunter Wheelock than we have about her husband. Eliza was born in Tennessee in 1809, the year President Lincoln was born. Her mother was Sarah Reed (Reid), born in Scotland about 1790. Nothing is known about the Hunter who was Sarah's husband. They had at least

five children--Eliza, probably the oldest of the brood; Elizabeth Ann, who married M. B. Champe in 1834, mother of the Champes we knew in Nebraska, married Joseph Groves in 1852; James Madison Hunter; Rebecca Hunter, who married Joseph Lisenbee; and Samuel N. Hunter, the Uncle Sam that Father and his sister Meda knew so well.

Sarah "lived around" in her old age, and Father spoke of her having lived with them when he was five or six years old. He recalled the Bible she brought with her as a very large book with very large print which he tried to read. Father's cherished keepsake, a small hand bell given to him by his grandmother Wheelock when he started teaching in 1880, had belonged to his great-grandmother Hunter. Sarah died in 1867 or 1868 at the home of her son Sam in Versailles, Ill.

Judging from his Memoirs, Father did not know his Wheelock grandparents as well as he knew the Wilson grandparents. During the

frequent separations of his father and mother which so clouded his childhood, he and his brother would be taken in by his Wilson grandparents, while his mother sought refugee in her parents' home. Furthermore, from early childhood, he and his grandfather Wilson were companionable, his grandmother Wilson kind and helpful. But this difference may be explained in part by the fact that his grandfather Wheelock was deaf, his grandmother blind. (Father recorded that she was totally blind from her 45th year.)

Father recalled the Wheelock home as a log house set in deep woods. His sister Meda painted a vivid word picture of that pioneer home in a 1943 letter recalling her childhood visits there:

"dim, dingy. There is the usual housekeeping clutter, a loom near the fireplace, two spinning wheels--one large, one small, this latter dear blind grandmother operates with her foot; the former, she walks to and fro giving it a push or a pull. Those elongated brushes

are carding boards, and that fluffy fairy-like pile atop those quilts, homespun blankets, etc. are of course rolls. I sometimes got to card a roll or two and more often to splice the rolls, but to spin or weave - never. Mother was very goodnatured, but I knew just how far to go.

"Grandpap would read to her from a large Bible. Mother, when not at work frequently sat back out of the way; she would be whispering to herself and I'd hear the word "taxes." So from little things I deduce that she was an industrious and responsible person in spite of her handicap."

Only two of the twelve Wheelock children were as longlived as their parents. George Barton Wheelock lived to be at least 75 and his wife Eliza, 81 years of age. One of their daughters and two of their sons passed away as young children. Two of the daughters died before they reached fifty years, leaving young children. Two of the sons died in their

forties and the third son when he was fifty. Two daughters lived to be 69, and the other two daughters, 78 years old.

What Next in Ancestor Searching?

I would like to examine possible sources of information concerning four of our female ancestors: Anna Howerton, mother of Wm. Howerton Wilson; Leah Morgan, mother of Abraham Scholl and known to have been Wm. Scholl's wife from 1785, thought by A. C. Barrow to have been a sister of General Daniel Morgan and of Sarah Morgan Boone, wife of the scout Daniel Boone; Tabitha Noe, mother of Matilda Scholl Wilson; and Susan Odle, mother of Mary Jane Mathes Wilson.

It would be interesting to attempt to verify certain family relationship claims. Father (A. K. Wilson) noted that "General Custer's grandmother Curtis was a first cousin to grandmother (Matilda Scholl) Wilson." A. C. Barrow wrote in Clark Co. Chronicles

that Sally Scholl (sister of Matilda Scholl Wilson) married Marshall Key, "who was a cousin of Francis Scott Key, author of The Star Spangled Banner."

I would like to determine whether grandfather Mathes served in the union or the confederate army during the Civil War, and possibly to get some specific information concerning his service record. Perhaps something definite may come to light concerning the ancestry of George Barton Wheelock.

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NAME _____ NO.

BORN _____ PLACE _____

MARRIED _____ PLACE _____ SOURCE OF INFORMATION

DIED _____ PLACE _____

BURIED AT _____

RESIDED AT _____

OCCUPATION _____ CHURCH AFF. _____

MILITARY SERVICE _____

FATHER _____ MOTHER(Maiden Name) _____

OTHER SPOUSE _____

SPOUSE _____

BORN _____ PLACE _____

DIED _____ PLACE _____

BURIED AT _____

FATHER _____ MOTHER(Maiden Name) _____

OTHER SPOUSE _____

	CHILDREN	BORN		DIED		MARRIED	
		DATE	PLACE	DATE	PLACE	DATE & PLACE	SPOUSE & PARENTAGE
1							
2							
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